

From: Rick Curry
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Anti-trust settlement

It is my opinion that the US government has been way too lenient on Microsoft.

The usual reason I have seen for this leniency has been that Microsoft employs a lot of people and other jobs also depend on Microsoft continuing to pursue their usual practices unfettered by any government restrictions.

The inherent speciousness of this argument is appalling. Anti-trust legislation was originally made into law specifically to deal with companies which have gotten too large and must be controlled. An argument that this legislation should not be applied because a company has gotten too large is at the very least disingenuous.

In addition, serious and irreparable harm is being done to US businesses because of Microsoft practices. Not only do their practices limit competition from US companies, Microsoft is also forcing critical technologies overseas. Microsoft forces technology overseas by the following methods:

- Microsoft forces US businesses to use Microsoft products only, putting US businesses at a disadvantage by limiting their access to new technologies.
- Microsoft uses intrusive information gathering techniques which some countries find unacceptable. In these countries, different technologies are created and exploited which avoid this Microsoft hegemony. As these technologies mature, they will become the new global standard for computing AND US BUSINESSES WILL BE LEFT OUT OF IT.
- Finally, Microsoft actively supports moving any technology jobs it possibly can to countries where the labor rate is more favorable. Many of these technologies are more art than engineering; when the job is moved overseas, the art becomes lost to the US and becomes the property of other nations - nations which can now set whatever price on these technologies that the market will bear.

There is still time to resurrect high technology in the US. This window of opportunity will not remain open forever and other nations will fill the void of reliable competitively-priced software which Microsoft is creating through their monopolistic business practices. Please put a muzzle on this Jackal of a company before it is too late.

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